par with international standards. As per the Report of World Steel Dynamics, the comparative labour productivity in terms of man-hours per tonne shipped in selected countries as of April, 2001 is as under:

($ per metric tonne shipped)

USA	JAPAN	GERMANY	TIWAN	CHINA	INDIA
4.1	4.0	4.0	5.0	20.8	26.5

(d) Steel plants are taking various measures to increase labour productivity. These *inter-alia* include:

(i) Technical upgradation and modernisation of major steel plants.

(ii) Adoption of State of Art technology.

(iii) Hiving off non-performing assets and usage of latest information technology tools for production process control and automation.

(iv) Rationalising manpower through natural separations and operation of VR Scheme, modernising selected facilities, introducing Standard Operating Practices and Standard Maintenance Practices are some of the measures that have been taken to improve the labour productivity.

Practice of prostitution in some tribal communities

†902. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even today prostitution is a common social practice in some tribal communities where the eldest daughter of the family is forced to enter in this profession;

(b) if so, the names of such tribal communities; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action being taken by Government for rehabilitation of such girls and to make them social and lead a dignified life in the society?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Projects to maintain cultural identity of tribals of Maharashtra

903. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects run by Government to maintain the cultural identity and self-respect of the tribals of Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) the details of the present status alongwith the outcome of the schemes run by Government and non-Government agencies for the education, health and employment of tribals; and

(c) the legal position about the monopoly of tribals on forest wealth alongwith the incidents denying them entry into the forest?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Trifed in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh

904. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED);

(b) whether it is operating in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the work done, so far, by TRIFED in the tribal areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) was set up under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 during 1987, to serve the needs of the tribals and